

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reexamination and reconsideration of this Application, withdrawal of the rejection, and formal notification of the allowability of all claims as now presented are earnestly solicited in light of the above claim amendments and remarks that follow.

Claim 1 has been cancelled, and claim 5 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 1. Claims 2, 6, 8, 10, 13, 15, and 16 have been amended to change the dependency thereof. Applicants submit no new matter has been introduced by the above-noted amendments. Applicants respectfully submit these amendments place the application in condition for allowance, or at least in a better condition for appeal. For these reasons, Applicants respectfully request entry of this amendment. Claims 2-30 are pending in the present application.

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 18-30 are allowed. Applicants further appreciate the Examiner's indication claim 5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim.

Claims 1-4, 6-13, and 15-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,802,945. Claim 14 stands rejected under the same section as being unpatentable over the '945 patent further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,105,227. As noted above, independent claim 1 has been cancelled, and the limitations of claim 1 have been incorporated into claim 5. Applicants submit claim 5 is therefore now in allowable form. As additionally noted above, appropriate amendments have been made to make all claims previously dependent upon claim 1 be presently dependent upon claim 5, thus making such dependent claims also allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the present rejections.

Applicants respectfully submit that all claims as now submitted are in condition for immediate allowance. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested in due course. If any minor formalities need to be addressed, the Examiner is directed to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone to facilitate prosecution of this case.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR §1.136(a), and any fee required

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therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

/rcagle/

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